

19th May 2021

Dear Parents\Carers,

With the half-term now in sight, and the potential for further lifting of restrictions during the second half term of the summer, I do hope you are well and looking forward to the future. As mentioned in my last letter, the school has been making plans for some changes to our provision from September 2021 and I am delighted to be able to share these with you now.

Plans for these changes began long before covid and emerged from work on our School Development Plans and an extensive consultation with staff and governors on how we can further improve our overall provision for students, particularly our pastoral support and also the support we have in place for our more vulnerable students.

As with any organisation, there are many different components that are critical to our effectiveness and our success, and all of these have been impacted in some way by our review and restructure. These include our admin teams, our technicians, the site staff and our support staff. Their contribution to the school cannot be overstated, but I don't propose to outline the changes in these areas at the moment. Instead I will focus on those areas which will have the most immediate and most visible impact to students and families.

The core change that we will be introducing from September 2021 will be the return to a year team structure for pastoral support. Whilst there have been real benefits to having students being a member of one of our three Houses, and many of those benefits will be maintained by the appointment of House Champions, we have found that there are many areas where a year group pastoral structure is more meaningful and more appropriate to the needs of the students. After all, a student's progress through school is very much delineated by what year they are in. We will thus be appointing five Heads of Year who will take on much of the responsibilities that are currently borne by the Heads of House and Deputy Heads of House.

The other very significant change to happen in September is the restructuring of our Learning Support Department and the addition of a Behaviour Intervention and Support Centre that will work in tandem with the pastoral and curriculum teams to support those students who need additional help to progress academically and succeed personally. I am hugely enthusiastic about this development as it will provide that extra layer of care and that those with social, emotional, academic, mental health or SEND require to thrive and succeed.

These areas be supported by our new SLT structure which I have mentioned previously and about which I will provide more detail in due course. We have also ensured the new provisions

Highgate Wood School Student Council supports individual action to address the issues of Climate Change and promotes the United Nations top 10 recommendations.



5-minute showers



Drive less



Lights off



Local produce



Recycle



Meat-free meals



Zero-waste fashion



Unplug



Refill and reuse



Bring your own bag

have the required administrative and other support services that will allow them to function effectively and efficiently – with monitoring and review systems in place to ensure that they are working well.

The other significant change, which I know will be welcome by many students, is the introduction of a system of split lunches and split breaks. From September this will not be as staggered as the current system that ensures covid safety, but it will have two sittings for lunch and break that will make the traffic in the canteen much more manageable and the queing for food less of an ordeal.

With this email I am attaching the “Welcome to Highgate Wood School” booklet that we will be distributing to our new students and in which you will find details of the timings of the school day from September as well as some other information. In the coming weeks I will also be sharing with you further details around the changes we will have in place for the new academic year.

With thanks for your continued support.

Regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cozier". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C'.

Patrick Cozier
Headteacher